REMARKS

A number of minor changes have been made to some of the claims better to point out that which applicants regard as their invention. In addition, new claims 10 to 21 have been added, meaning that the claims before the Examiner are claims 1 to 21. The claims will be discussed in more detail herein.

Claim 1 had been rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as indefinite, the Examiner questioning the meaning of the term "content of components." Claim 1 has been amended to insert after "components" the phrase "in the modified propylene based polymer." The characterization is based upon a GPC curve, as mentioned in the specification at page 11, lines 4 to 6, and page 26, lines 11 to 14.

The rejection of claims 1 to 9 under 35 USC 102, or alternatively, under 35 USC 103 over Okada et al. '404 is respectfully traversed.

The modified propylene-based polymer of the present invention has properties recited in the claims that are not

taught or suggested by the reference. Applicants have discovered that it is necessary to form the modified propylene-based resin at a temperature not beyond 180° C, something clearly not taught, suggested, or recognized in Okada et al. '404.

The Examiner is directed to working Examples 1 to 3 and Comparative Examples 1 and 2. In the working examples, the temperature for melting and kneading is 180° C, while the temperature in the Comparative Examples was 210° C. It is for this reason that claim 4 has been amended.

The reference discloses a broad temperature range for melting and kneading of 150 to 300° C, preferably 190 to 280° C. The temperature for melting and kneading in the Okada et al. '404examples is 220° C. See the second paragraph under the heading "Tables 1-1 and 1-2". A review of Table 1 on page 35 of the specification shows clearly that the higher treating temperature gave a product that does not meet the stated characteristics of the modified propylene based polymer of these claims. Okada et al. '404 has no teaching, indication, suggestion, or awareness that keeping the treating temperature

at no more than 180° will give a modified propylene based polymer with the four characteristics of the claims. Indeed, the Okada et al. '404 working examples, as proven by applicants' comparative examples, will not give a resin with the properties specified in the claims. The rejection should be withdrawn.

New claims 10 to 18 specify that the propylene-based polymer is "modified only with a compound containing in the same molecule thereof an ethelynic double bond and a polar group" to exclude a polymer containing an unsaturated aromatic monomer, as required in Okada et al. '404. The reference emphasizes the importance of having an unsaturated aromatic monomer in the resin. See, in the reference Examples 1 and 2, Comparative Examples 1 and 2, Examples 9 and 10, and Comparative Examples 3 and 4.

Claims 19 to 21 use the phrase "consisting essentially of" (in claim 19) further to define over Okada et al; please note that claim 19 depends from claim 1. Okada et al. '404 requires the presence of a saturated polyester resin (B) and an epoxy group-containing polymer (E). The need for such components can be seen by evaluating Examples 30 to 32, Comparative Example 6,

Examples 55 to 57 and Comparative Example 7 of the reference. The instant claims patentably distinguish thereover.

The Examiner is asked to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document from the International Bureau.

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the case.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

New Attorney Docket No. 28955.1046
Old Attorney Docket No. HEIW:046

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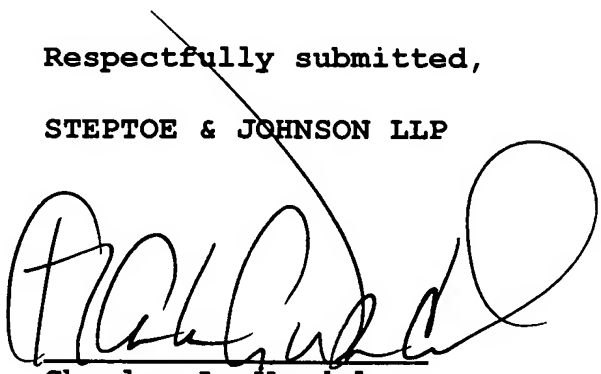

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